

Record

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Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

Adopt a Church meeting critical needs

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

There are no short-term recovery prospects along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Katrina. As news cycles come and go, the needs of Mississippi Baptist churches damaged in the hurricane will be forgotten by many.

There is, however, an opportunity for individuals, churches, associations, and state conventions to develop long-lasting relationships with those needy churches through the Adopt a Church ministry.

Adopt a Church is a new ministry in which the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), in cooperation with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, is striving to help churches, associations, and state conventions in the affected area link with churches across the continent in "restoring" partnerships.

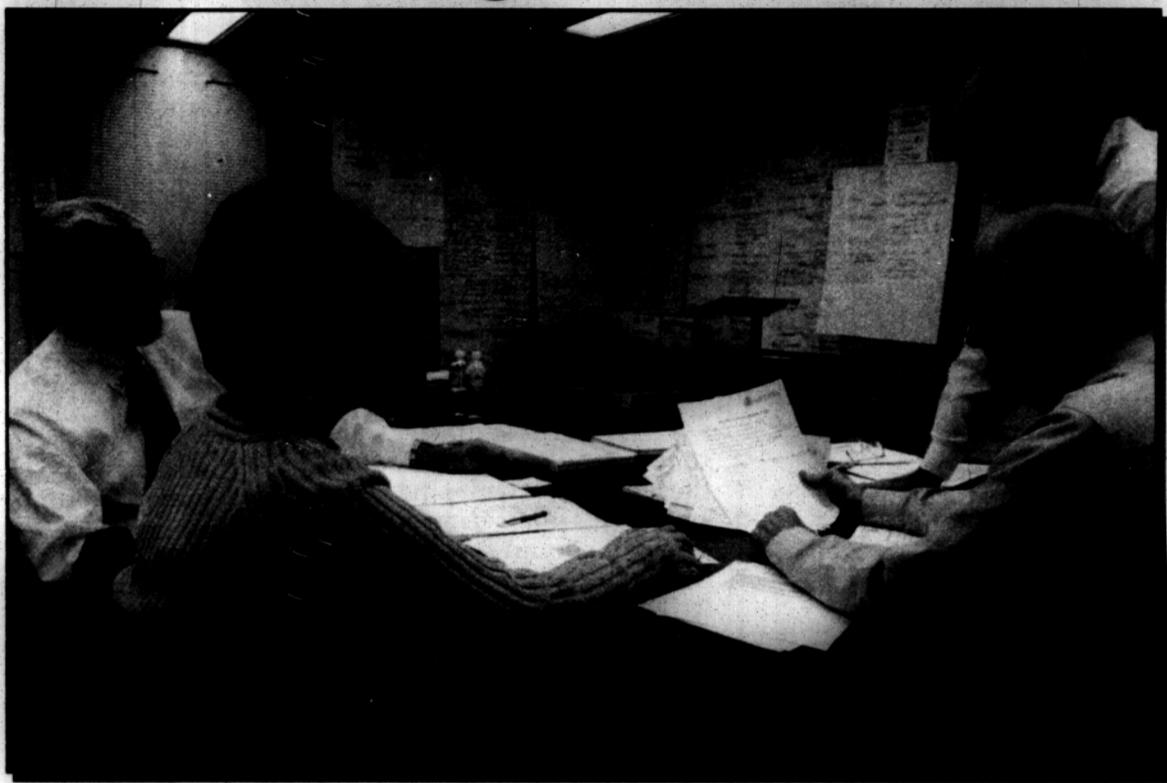
Churches are needed to "adopt" congregations whose facilities were badly damaged or destroyed. Adopt a Church coordinators are asking for the adopted period to be between 12-24 months, as the adopted church struggles to get back to normal. Many churches will have not one adopting church partner, but numerous adopters. This will allow more churches to participate and help spread the opportunity/responsibility as well as the joy.

According to Tom Prather, MBCB Church and Community Impact specialist, the program originated with NAMB. "In the beginning, NAMB put the Adopt a Church system on their website, where churches could log on and fill out a form saying who they were and what they could do. We had NAMB representatives working on the coast already with Jim Didlake (director of the MBCB Men's Ministry department, which is tasked with disaster relief responsibility for the state convention). That system was in place, and they would e-mail us the names of the churches who signed up with them so that we could make assignments," Prather said.

Fully 90% of the churches responding to the NAMB site were non-Mississippi churches, however. The MBCB saw immediately that some kind of response system was necessary for Mississippi churches to directly respond to the needs of their sister churches. A similar form was placed on the MBCB website (www.mbc.org), and as calls and requests were received, inquirers were referred to that site. Mississippi churches have typically used the MBCB website, and most out-of-state churches have been referred through NAMB.

The MBCB website has a "church in need" form, for the church requesting help. "Of course, the problem was that a lot of the churches needing help didn't have Internet access," said Prather, "but if a church contacted us by any other means, we'd fill out a form for them so we'd have their information."

There have been several different methods for assessing the needs of churches. First, the Care Response Team is made up of MBCB directors and consultants who went



MATCHING CHURCHES — Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) staffers consult October 24 on the Adopt a Church ministry currently underway to match churches and religious groups from across the country with Mississippi Baptist churches damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Working on the matches are (from left) Kiely Young, MBCB Sunday School Director; Beverly Bridges, ministry assistant in MBCB Church and Community Impact; Tom Prather, Church and Community Impact specialist; and Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church growth. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

out to pastors and churches damaged or destroyed by Katrina and completed assessment forms. These forms came back to the Baptist Building in Jackson, and needs were identified and compiled.

Secondly, David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy, contacted all the Associational Mission Directors (AMD) in the state to request the name of any church that had damage and provide an associational assessment form. "There were a lot of churches the response teams couldn't get to, so this was a handy way to get that information," Prather said.

The third way information was gathered was during special pastors' meetings at First Church, Pascagoula; First Church, Biloxi; and First Church, Poplarville. AMDs invited as many pastors as possible. Pastors responded by sharing information such as specific damage, what kind of partners they needed, and other facts.

Data is organized in the "war room," a conference room in the Baptist Building. "We took our list, NAMB's list, and contacts from everywhere else. We've tried to match churches with partners. That was heavy work for several weeks," said Prather.

As churches have contacted MBCB, Prather stated, "We first try to provide information, telling churches what we've done to date. They have to have a picture of what has happened. We've identified over 200 churches with needs, churches that have asked for help."

As of press deadline on October 25, 163 Mississippi churches and associations and 952 churches, associations, and Baptist

conventions from out of state have expressed interest in partnering with damaged churches. "We have five to six, maybe seven, churches per coastal church wanting to help, so we've tried to communicate that what we're looking at is a long-term commitment. It's going to take some time. Some churches can spend a week or two, some can come back in a year," Prather said.

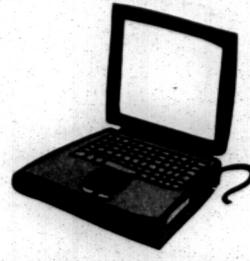
By communicating these facts, churches can understand that the task doesn't have to be overwhelming, because there are several churches partnering together to serve one other church. "It's a group effort," Prather pointed out.

The most significant needs right now are for cleanup and recovery. Finances continue to be a great need — pastor and staff support, church support, family support, and community support. "Insurance has helped some, but finances are a real issue," said Prather.

Since the Adopt-a-Church ministry has begun, response has been amazing. As an example, a group from Oklahoma has committed to completely rebuild a church in Hancock County in four days.

To date, 55,540 volunteers have aided in Baptist disaster relief activities in Mississippi, with 2.7 million meals served and 7,275 work projects completed.

For more information on the Adopt a Church program, visit www.mbc.org and click on the Hurricane Katrina icon, then click in the designated area under Adopt a Church Partnerships. Interested parties can also call (601) 292-3206, or e-mail disasterrelief@mbcb.org.



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Ashamed of themselves? Not likely.

When House Bill 45 to permit land-based gambling was brought before the Fifth Extraordinary Special Session of this year (count 'em: five), many brave lawmakers stood up to the gambling/political complex and voted against the bill. Their names were listed last week in this space under the headline, "Heroes of the vote."

They lost, but at least they know they did the right thing. As Representative Eric Robinson, a member of First Church, Quitman, said in The Meridian Star after the special session, "For me it was a non-issue. If it were up to me I would shut them all down. I don't want them to feel like they are welcome here." Amen!

Following is a list of Mississippi Baptist representatives and senators who voted to make the gamblers welcome in our state for a long time to come. They all should be ashamed of themselves, but that's not likely. They are:

House of Representatives

- Noal Akins — First Church, Oxford.

- Virginia Carlton — First Church, Columbia.

- Dirk Dedeaux — Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville.

- Bobby Moak — Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto.

- John Moore — Puckett Church, Puckett.

- John Read — First Church, Gautier.

- John Reeves — First Church, Clinton.

- James Simpson Jr. — First Church, Gulfport.

- Clayton Smith — Pinelake Church, Brandon.

- Greg Snowden — First Church, Meridian.

Senate

- Sidney Albritton — New Palestine Church, Picayune.

- Terry Brown — Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus.

- Doug Davis — Longview Point Church, Hernando.

- Dean Kirby — First Church, Jackson.

- Ezell Lee — First Church, Picayune.

- Ed Morgan — First Church, Hattiesburg.

- Lynn Posey — Union Church, Union Church.

- Billy Thames — First Church, Raleigh.

As usual, there was a lot of otherworldly maneuvering among pro-gambling legislators to save face and/or preserve their political future, and still fulfill every item on the gamblers' wish list. Observing their frantic efforts to force compromise on anti-gambling legislators and groups, instead of just doing the right thing, would have been amusing if the subject matter weren't so serious.

It's time to confront these Mississippi Baptist legislators and the other senators and representatives listed below about their pro-gambling vote. Don't accept the pitiful excuse many of them will use that they're actually not in favor of gambling.

"You cannot support moving gambling without supporting gambling," said retired pastor Arlis Nichols of Enterprise, in the same article from the Meridian Star quoted above.

How can anyone compromise on a moral issue as destructive as gambling, much

more allow the gamblers to continue their relentless northward creep through our state? That's a good question to ask the legislators.

Remember those legislators' names plus Governor Haley Barbour, who called the gambling special session in the first place, controlled the agenda, and marshaled the lobbyists and secular news media in his quest for total victory.

Remember what they did during the special session to strengthen the power of the gambling/political complex in Mississippi. Remember the many individuals, families, businesses, and inheritances that will be destroyed because of legalized gambling in Mississippi.

Remember that as the casinos continue their relentless push statewide, sooner or later someone you cherish is going to be swept under the gambling tide. Remember — yes, remember indeed — all of this is being done in your name.

Remember those ugly facts for a long, long time.

Editor's note: We have endeavored to list each legislator's vote and home church as accurately as possible. If we made a mistake or omitted someone, we will gladly issue a correction and apology upon notification.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

House of Representatives

YEA-60 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Akins, Noal	Oxford	12
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67
Bentz, Leonard	Biloxi	116
Blackmon Jr., Edward	Canton	57
Broomfield, Billy	Moss Point	110
Brown, Cecil	Jackson	66
Burnett, Clara	Tunica	9
Calhoun, Credell	Jackson	68
Carlton, Virginia	Columbia	100
Clark, Bryant	Pickens	47
Clarke, Alyce	Jackson	69
Coleman, Linda	Mound Bayou	29
Coleman, Mary	Jackson	65
Comprett, J.P.	Bay St. Louis	122
Davis, Lee Jarrell	Hattiesburg	102
Dedeaux, Dirk	Gulfport	95
Denny, Bill	Jackson	64
Espy III, Henry	Clarksdale	26
Evans, James	Jackson	70
Flaggs Jr., George	Vicksburg	55
Fredericks, Frances	Gulfport	110
Guice Jr., Daniel	Ocean Springs	114
Hamilton, Frank	Hurley	109
Harrison, Esther	Columbus	41
Hinds Sr., John	Greenville	50
Holland, Steve	Plantersville	16
Holloway Sr., Gregory	Hazlehurst	76
Ishee, Roger	Gulfport	118
Janus, Michael	Biloxi	117
Johnson III, Robert	Natchez	94
Malone, Bennett	Carthage	45
Martinson, Rita	Madison	58
Mayhall Jr., W.T.	Southaven	40
Mayo, John	Clarksdale	25
Moak, Bobby	Bogue Chitto	53
Moore, John	Brandon	60
Morris, Leonard	Batesville	11
Myers, David	McComb	98
Norquist, David	Cleveland	28
Patterson, Randall	Biloxi	115
Perianch, Diane	Pass Christian	121
Read, John	Gautier	112
Reeves, John	Jackson	71
Robinson Jr., Walter	Bolton	63

Simpson Jr., James

Pass Christian	120
Smith, Clayton	59
Smith, Ferr	27
Snowden, Greg	83
Staples, Gary	88
Stevens, Mary Ann	48
Straighter, Rufus	51
Thomas, Sara	31
Upshaw, Jessica	95
Watson, Percy	103
Whittington, May	34
Woods, Tommy	52
Young Sr., Charles	82
Zuber III, Hank	113

Mims V, Sam

McCorm	97
Pontotoc	15
Moss, Harvey	2
Corinth	78
Nicholson, Billy	107
Parker, Deryk	107
Laurel	107
Belzoni	35
West	35
Reed, Dannie	35
Reynolds, Tommy	35
Robinson, Eric	35
Diamondhead	35
Hattiesburg	35
Schlater	35
Byhalia	35
Waterville	35
Watson, Ray	35
Meridian	35
Hattiesburg	35
Ocean Springs	35

Reed, Dannie

Pearl	61
Rotenberry, Clinton	22
Smith, Jeff	22
Stringer, Johnny	22
Sullivan, Preston	22
Turner, Jerry	22
Vince, Robert	22
Walley, Shaun	22
Ward, Greg	22
Warren, Joe	22
Weathersby, Tom	22
Wells-Smith, Carmel	22

Rogers, Ray

Pearl	61
Mendenhall	22
Columbus	22
Montrose	22
Okolona	22
Baldwyn	22
Sandy Hook	22
Leakesville	22
Ripley	22
Mt. Olive	22
Florence	22

Rosenberg, Margaret

Pearl	61
Harden, Alice	22
Hewes III, William	22
Hohm, John	22
Huggins, Bunkie	22
Jackson, Robert	22
Jackson II, Sampson	22
Jordan, David	22
Kirby, Dean	22
Lee, Ezell	22
Michel, Walter	22
Moffat, Tommy	22
Morgan, Ed	22
Posey, Lynn	22
Robertson, Tommy	22
Ross, Charlie	22
Simmons, William	22
Thames, Billy	22
Walls Jr., Johnnie	22
Williamson, Gloria	22

Rogers, Margaret

Pearl	61

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Women gather for conference, weekender

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Nearly 1,000 people from 29 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada gathered at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina for the first national missions event hosted by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in five years.

"Discover the Joy of Missions was the overarching theme of two events — a WMU conference, Sept. 28–30, that focused on WMU training, leadership development, and practical ways to involve the entire church in missions, and a Missions Weekender, Sept. 30–Oct. 2, that encouraged spiritual growth and personal missions involvement.

The seven key aspects of a missional lifestyle — worldview, relationships, communication, ministry, leadership, spirituality, and Scripture study — were woven throughout the two events.

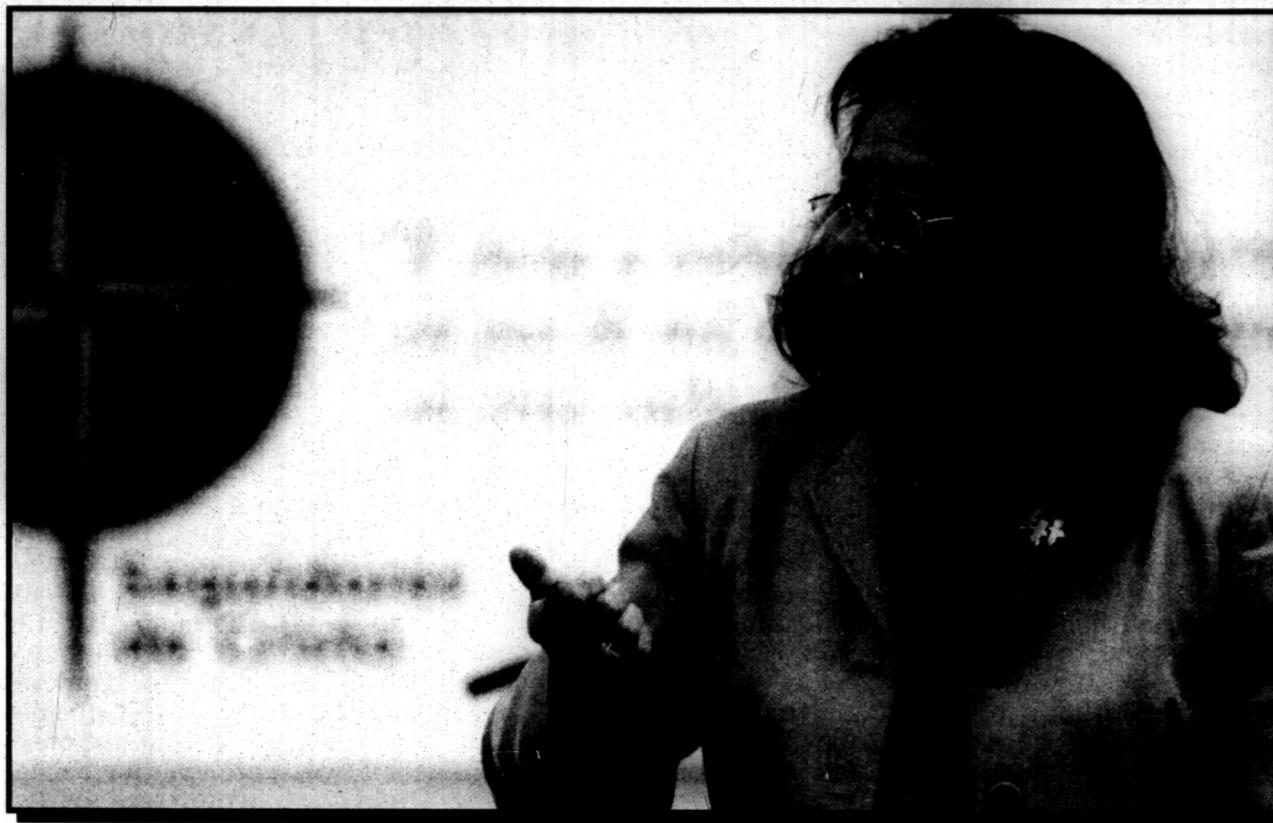
With colorful flags of the nations all around the stage, WMU Executive Director Wanda S. Lee challenged participants to develop a broader, biblical worldview during her keynote address on Friday evening.

"What would happen if our view of the world and our understanding of Christian principles intersected in such a way that our responses to world situations were based on how Jesus would respond?" Lee asked.

Exploring the missional living concepts of relationships and communication, author and speaker Esther Burroughs spoke on Saturday evening about barriers to sharing the love of Christ.

As she shared several stories about people ministering to others in everyday situations, she said Christians should always look for opportunities to "go out of our way on our way."

"We are vessels that God works through and we need to pray that we will be obedi-



MISSION HELPS — Libo Kreig led Hispanic leadership training sessions during the Woman's Missionary Union Conference and Missions Weekender at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. (BP photo by Sue Sprenkle)

ent to His call," Burroughs said. "We need to be willing to cross barriers of gender, race, religion, culture ... just as Jesus crossed every barrier to minister to the Samaritan woman at the well."

"Sometimes," Burroughs said, "the church may actually serve as a barrier. If you became involved in church at a young age, it's likely that you made your friends there and you all live in the same community and are less likely to know people who are not saved. But they are all around, just waiting for you to plant a seed."

In addition to several general sessions for worship, 85 different workshops were offered during the WMU conference and 65 during the Missions Weekender. Workshops led by

North American and international missionaries were very well attended, as were special tracks led in Spanish and Korean.

A World Bazaar bridged the two events and provided opportunities to "travel" around the world to learn about various cultures and visit with missionaries. Recording artist Kate Campbell provided a special concert on Saturday night.

Other program personalities included Edna Ellison, author and speaker; Travis Collins, pastor of Bon Air Church, Richmond, Va.; Karla Worley, author, songwriter and worship leader; Karen Anderson Holcomb, dramatist; and special music by a choir of Korean women, the musical group One Accord, and Steve and Valerie Muller.

While at Ridgecrest, attendees gave nearly \$11,000 in donations and gift cards to assist those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Cash donations will be disbursed

through WMU's HEART (Humanitarian Emergency Aid for Rebuilding Tomorrow) Fund, which is managed by the WMU Foundation, and gift cards will be distributed through state WMU offices in the states affected for disaster relief efforts.

"This has been a wonderful experience," Serena Wilson, 25, of Farmington, N.M., said, "and I have learned so much. We are definitely coming back next year and bringing more women from our church."

The 2006 WMU conference and Missions Weekender will be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Sept. 27–Oct. 1. Visit www.wmu.com for more information and details as they become available.

Looking back

10 years ago

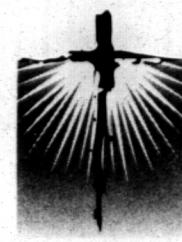
Messengers to the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention approve a record Mississippi Cooperative Program budget of nearly \$23.3 million.

20 years ago

Riverside and Quitman Associations, representing Tunica, Coahoma, and Quitman Counties in the Delta area of northwest Mississippi, vote to merge into North Delta Association with headquarters in Clarksdale.

50 years ago

Camp Kittiwake on the Gulf Coast, owned by E. O. Hunt, becomes Kittiwake Baptist Assembly on Oct. 15 and as the property of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will now bear that name. It is the first assembly facility to be owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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THE BAPTIST
Record

Lay Missions Conf., Banquet postponed

Due to the demands of Hurricane Katrina response and because of the focus on meeting the needs of pastors and church staff in the areas where destruction was so great, the Lay Missions Conference and Banquet scheduled for October 31 have been postponed. Please check www.mbc.org later for a rescheduling announcement, which will also appear in The Baptist Record.

NOBTS cleanup begins

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) will launch a major volunteer cleanup initiative on Oct. 31, giving Southern Baptists an opportunity to assist with the restoration and renewal of on-campus housing at NOBTS. Volunteers will assist in a comprehensive cleanup and restoration of all second- and third-floor apartments on campus, from Oct. 31 until the job is completed. The seminary's insurance will only reimburse NOBTS for restoration work on the contaminated first floors of campus residences. These first-floor apartments, contaminated with mold and mildew, are currently being professionally sanitized and restored. The plan includes three phases: cleanup of remaining items in apartments, cleaning and repainting, and restoring apartment flooring. NOBTS will provide two meals per day and drinking water for volunteers. A sleeping area also be provided, but volunteers must bring bedding, towels, a daily change of clothes (washers and dryers are not available), and breakfast snacks. Volunteers must be 18 and older and insurance is required. The seminary has arranged an insurance provider for volunteers; coverage can be purchased for a few cents per day. Details can be found at the website for Adams and Associates Insurance www.aaintl.com. Volunteers also should have an up-to-date tetanus shot, and flu and hepatitis shots also are recommended. Limited space is available each week — groups must schedule in advance. For more information, contact Bob or Linda Jackson at (404) 226-9367. E-mail: bob@missionlab.com.

CONVENTION 2005



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Next week Mississippi Baptists from all over the state will come together for the Convention in Jackson at the First Baptist Church. Although many Convention committees have been meeting throughout the year in preparation for these two days, in some ways it seems as though the preparations are both incomplete and insufficient. At times I have felt like the Convention's arrival was similar to when we played hide and go seek as kids. After counting to some number the seeker would holler out, "Ready or not, hear I come." Well, in that same vein ready or not here comes Convention time!

The problem, of course, is not one that anyone could have anticipated or even fully prepared for because it is the disruption created by Katrina's arrival. She not only rearranged the landscape — decimating houses, destroying businesses, felling trees, and flooding vast areas, but she also rearranged schedules, meetings, budgets, and carefully made plans. Still, Convention is on and I am convinced that it is going to be a glorious gathering of God's people.

In some ways it will be Convention as usual. Saying that I am referring to the fact that here it is the end of October and the first of November and Mississippi Baptists are getting together as the great family of God to fellowship, worship, pray, and look to God for wisdom, strength, resources, and guidance for the days ahead. It will be the 170th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

While Baptists in Mississippi have been through a lot of tests, trials, challenges, and opportunities through all of these years, for those of our generation living with the remains of the greatest natural disaster ever to



Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

hit our nation, we have never met under these conditions. Still, we are going to meet, look to God, and bear one another's burdens. It is in that sense Convention as usual. In that light while everyone in our churches may not be able to come as a messenger, everyone is welcome to be at the Convention. All of our cooperating churches are eligible to send two to ten messengers. But beyond just being a messenger, anyone can come, and I hope that many of you will. You will be blessed, and I honestly believe you will be the better for your attendance.

In another way it will be Convention as unusual — unusual in a number of different ways. The closer we got to Convention time, post-Katrina, it became my deep concern whether or not many of our pastors and people would be able to get away for a couple of days and participate. Would people on the coast who are in the beginning stages of putting life and property back together and people all across the state who were drastically affected by this storm be able to come, afford to come, or want to be away for a day or two to be at the Convention? We have tried to help them make provisions so that they will take this time for themselves and for us as we gather to do Kingdom business.

I am constantly reminding others as I remind myself that the disaster not only hit the coastal counties but over half of our Mississippi counties were declared disaster counties by the federal government.

It is not just those folks in the southern half of the state who have been affected by the storm. Thousands of churches, congregations, pastors, and staff have responded to say, "We want to help," and have given themselves untiringly to care about, reach out to, lift-up, and love the folks who have been affected. As a result the great challenge of this storm has exhausted many of the servants in our churches who have unendingly given of themselves in loving response.

If we were on the battlefield, you would see in the eyes and in the demeanor of many people what would be called battle fatigue. More often in this case it is just exhaustion and compassion fatigue. As people give themselves emotionally, mentally, physically, and indeed spiritually, there is a draining that takes place. We may not even recognize that to a point they are empty, drained, and barely running on fumes.

To the best of their ability the Order of Business Committee has addressed some of these realizations to try to allow us to be encouraged, to encourage one another, and spend some time together as a family looking to the Lord. Of course, there will be many meetings that normally take place around the

Convention experience. One that will not be held is the Lay Missions Banquet which usually takes place on Monday evening. The simple reason for its cancellation is that the hundreds who usually attend that meeting are some of the exhausted people who may not need another meeting to attend and some will still be engaged in disaster relief efforts and cannot leave their posts.

We will celebrate God's goodness even in the midst of the trials. We will hear testimonies of those who survived the storm. We will celebrate with people who have come into the Kingdom of God even during these days. We will have baptisms which will be a different part of our Convention activities. We will trust God to refurbish us, reinvigorate us, and remind us of who we are and what we are to be doing whether the skies are sunny or stormy.

For those of you, who may not be able to attend the Convention, please pray for those who do that the Lord will guide them and bless them. For those of you, who are going to be able to be here, come with a heart that is in touch with God, hands that are ready to be used by Him, and eyes that are sensitive to seeing opportunities where God would have you to plug in. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention and even more so I look forward to seeing the Lord's hand at work among us to bind us together and enable us to be all that He wants us to be.

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Have You Solved Your Estate Planning Puzzle?

DOES YOUR ESTATE PLAN:

- Include an up-to-date Will? Yes No
- Name a guardian or create a protective trust for your parents, young or disadvantaged children, adult children, or grandchildren? Yes No
- Control all of your property including pensions and life insurance? Yes No
- Name an executor/executrix and trustee you are confident will carry out your wishes? Yes No
- Include provisions for long-term health care for you and your spouse and other dependents should the need arise? Yes No
- Include charitable gifts? Yes No

Everyone who owns property - a home, a car, a bank account, investments, business interests, a retirement plan account, collectibles, personal belongings, etc. needs an estate plan! Anything that you own that can produce income or that can be converted into cash make up your estate. An estate plan allows you to direct how and to whom your property will be distributed after your death. *Is there a blank in your estate planning?*

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation was founded in 1943 to assist individuals and institutions in charitable giving and estate planning. Give us a call. Let us assist you by filling in your estate planning blanks by giving the Mississippi Baptist Foundation a call at (601) 292-3210.

MBF
THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

FIGHT IS JOINED

Editor:

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your editorials in the Record. I have been especially encouraged by your recent editorials regarding casino gambling. Thank you for taking the fight to the secular media. That is where the message is needed and I hope you will continue to do that.

I know you are busy, but I wanted to let you know that the fight is joined in east Mississippi and I am doing what I can, by His grace and strength, to arouse the concern of church members and pastors in this area.

My prayers are with you as you continue the fight for our precious families.

Arlis Nichols
Enterprise

BADGE OF HONOR

Editor:

For those who would trumpet that Mississippi Baptists were defeated in the recent casino issues, I would make the following observation: It is 423 miles from Gulfport to Corinth, and that's how far many in this state would allow the advance of casinos. You held them to only 800 feet.

In my book, enduring the accusations of being a right wing fundamentalist is in many ways a badge of honor in a society gone mad. You fought a good fight and in my book came out a winner. We are proud of you and hopeful that you and other leaders of our convention will continue to stand up on issues like this.

Maybe after a while some of the rest of us will begin to stand with you.

Jerry Grace
Satartia

GAMBLING 'MAINTAINED'

Editor:

It seems that a Baptist editor can also "spin words to suit his purposes" (as written about Governor Haley Barbour in the October 13 Editor's Notebook).

I am a staunch Baptist and disapprove of gambling. I wish we had never allowed it in Mississippi but what Governor Barbour and the Legislature did only maintained the gambling business; they did not expand it.

Don't criticize others when you are guilty of what you criticize them for.

Judy Moore
Yazoo City

NIT-PICKING EDITOR

Editor:

I am amazed at your nit-picking attack on the Governor (Editor's Notebook, October 13). I am unequivocally opposed to gambling also, but to use that as a justification for comparing Haley Barbour to Bill Clinton is outrageous. No reasonable person would ever understand that Barbour changed his position on gambling expansion based on the comparison of his two statements.

Gambling is still restricted to the same counties (areas) to which it was restricted before the special session and, based on the news reports I have seen, there were no additional casinos

authorized in the session. We have had a governor (not Haley Barbour) who opened the state to alcohol. We have had a governor (not Haley Barbour) who presided over the opening of the state to gambling.

The political reality is that a state made up of a large number of "Christians" has elected a legislature which is alcohol- and gambling-supportive. We have what we have permitted, and Barbour is not the culprit. Those who put the people who support gambling and alcohol in the state legislature are the guilty ones!

Charles L. Nail, Pastor
Foxworth First Church
Foxworth

ASHAMED

Editor:

I am now a resident of Tennessee but lived in Mississippi during the Haley Barbour campaign. I am ashamed to admit that I voted for and helped in the election of Barbour. It is so hard to believe this is the same man who portrayed himself as a Christian. Can we believe anyone anymore?

We worked hard to defeat gambling in our county. It goes to show that the almighty dollar is all Barbour is concerned about, regardless of who suffers in the process.

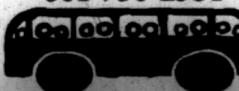
Keep letting the good folks in Mississippi know the kind of Governor they have, and we will all pray that he is never reelected.

Nancy Scott
Knoxville, Tn.

STANDING GUARD

Editor:

I agree with all your Editor's Notebooks. I frequently show them to others who do not

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tdaniel@rivesleavell.com
www.rivesleavell.com

receive The Baptist Record. This may not be appropriate, but it reminds me of you: "Standing guard on old forgotten roads that no one travels any more," from The Fencing Master by Arturo Perez-Reverte.

Governor Barbour flat out lied.

Lillian Johnson
Jackson

ACCOUNTABLE

Editor:

Thank you for your continued voice against the encroachment of gambling — they call it "gaming" — in Mississippi. I read your guest opinion in The Meridian Star on October 13.

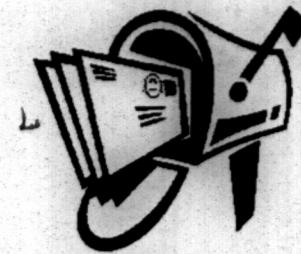
I became engaged in emailing, letter-writing, and speaking against gambling — and it cost me some discomfort, too. While many like me did what they could, I am very disappointed with the lack of even a word from fellow Baptists across the state.

Remembering Sid Salter (current Perspective section editor at the Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, who wrote a column disparaging Mississippi Baptists' stand against gambling) when he was just beginning with the Scott County Times, he was very different then. Now he's come of age, as some would say. How things do change!

Salter needs to remember that God holds men to account, regardless what men think of God. All one needs do is read Romans 13:1-7 to understand this truth. Too, people with moral principles will hold their elected officials to account, and that goes for the Governor who said one thing then and something else now.

Thank you for rising to responsibility to clarify and enunciate truth from fiction. As I understand it, we are now in the middle of a real fight, and it is very frightening for our children and children's children because we've handed their future over to folks who do not look past their own noses.

Chester Estes Jr.
Union



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Preschool Care at Convention

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, October 31, noon – November 2, 2005. Call Michelle Sansing, Childcare Coordinator, at 601-949-1997 to pre-register.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street.

Following are the procedures:

1. Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church.

2. Pick up a security card for each child on arrival.
3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
4. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
5. Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday if parents provide a sack lunch.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

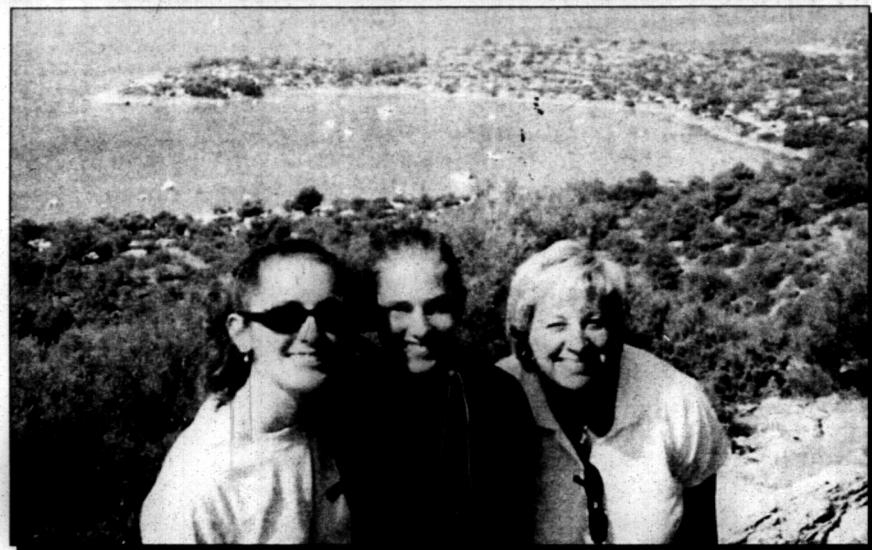


1. VBS, Coldwater Church, Philadelphia



Louise Stevenson retired after 35 years of teaching Sunday School at Barefoot Springs Church, Pelahatchie.

Stevenson



2. Croatia Mission Trip, Twin Lakes Church, Brandon



3. Deacon Ordination, North Long Beach Church, Long Beach

1. Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, held a successful Vacation Bible School. Shown are the participants.

2. Kimberly Cole, a member of Twin Lakes Church, Brandon, recently participated in a mission trip to Croatia. Shown are Cole, Whitney Terry of Birmingham, Ala., and Kym Mitchell, also of Birmingham.

3. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, recently ordained Doug Thigpen, O. B. Hillman, and Ricky Bazzell as deacons. Shown are pastor Charles Bonner, Thigpen, Hillman and Bazzell.

4. New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, held a baby dedication. Shown are Kelly Porter, Beverly Porter, and baby Samuel David Porter.

5. New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, presented Jason McGuffie with a license to preach the gospel. Shown are Jessica McGuffie, McGuffie, and Willie Welch.

6. Shiloh Church, Marion County, recently held a sign dedication. Shown are Richard Davis, Billie Sue Pittman, Willodean Bullock, Dot Johnson, and Doug Benedict.

7. Sylvarena Church, Wesson, recently ordained Hillry Britt, Jim Edwards, Bob Caraway, Curtis Davis, Jerry Carter, Jerry Westbrooks, and Randle Drane as deacons.

8. Siloam Church, Meadville, held a ground breaking ceremony for a new fellowship hall and Sunday School complex Sept. 18. Shown are members of the building committee and deacons.

9. Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will host Shawn Comfort, vocal and music skills instructor at Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex of Jackson Public Schools in concert October 30, 6 p.m. Free admission.

10. First Church, Madison, will sponsor a fall festival, Oct. 30, 4 p.m., including trunk-or-treat, a Penn's catering trailer, and Halogen in concert at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds go toward youth mission trips.



4. Baby Dedication, New Prospect Church, Brookhaven



6. Sign Dedication, Shiloh Church, Marion County



8. Groundbreaking Ceremony, Siloam Church, Meadville



5. Ordination for McGuffie, New Prospect Church, Brookhaven



7. Deacon Ordination, Sylvarena Church, Wesson

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSETOPS.

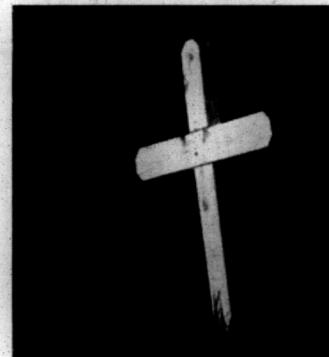
Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 27, 2005

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

Mississippi Baptist Churches Asked to Display White Crosses January 14-22, 2006

The Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention encourages churches all over the state to demonstrate their support of pro-life issues by being part of a special effort. The 33rd anniversary of the historic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand will be on January 22, 2006. Churches are being asked to display white crosses on their lawns during the week leading up to that date as a visible means of showing their support of the pro-life stance. For specific suggestions as to how your congregation could join in this important endeavor, please contact the Christian Action Commission at 601-292-3329.



Professional Preschool/ Children's Ministers' Retreat

March 9-10, 2006
Patterson Place
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



Questions or suggestions? Please contact **Don Gann, Don Hicks, Robin Keels or Linda Reeves** at **1-800-748-1651** or by E-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

Ministers' Wives Conference



Monday, October 31, 2005
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON
(Fifth Floor)
1:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Ladies, this is just a reminder about the Ministers' Wives Conference next week. If you have any questions, please call

Kay McDonnell at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305 or
601-292-3305 in Jackson.

Judy Gordon

National, state and local speaker
English teacher and wife of Keith Gordon,
consultant, MBCB Pastor/Leadership
Development department

1:15 p.m.

Registration: Fifth Floor of
FBC, Jackson

1:30

Welcome, Introductions and
Fellowship Greeting: Shirley
Futral

2:00

Musical Inspiration: Lori
Schuler

2:15

Judy Gordon

3:15

Fellowship

3:30

Musical Inspiration: Lori
Schuler

3:45

Patsy Sheffield

4:30

Musical Closing: Lori Schuler
Adjourn

Patsy B. Sheffield

Former MBCB ministry assistant
Pastor's wife (twice)
Married to Forrest Sheffield, pastor of
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss.

2:00

Worship leader, soloist and songwriter

2:15

Patsy Sheffield

3:15

Musical Inspiration: Lori
Schuler

3:30

Judy Gordon

3:45

Fellowship

4:30

Musical Inspiration: Lori
Schuler

4:45

Adjourn

Lori Schuler

Worship leader, soloist and songwriter
Past minister of music in several Mississippi
churches
Wife of Benson

Deacon Ministry Emphasis

Week 2006

January 8-14, 2006



Deacon Ministry Emphasis

is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose Of Deacon Emphasis Is To:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

When and How

May be conducted at any time during the year, however, January 8-14 is designated by the MBCB as the week to emphasize deacon ministry.

To participate, the deacons would choose at least two actions and perform them during a specified time.

See the possible activities listed in this brochure.

A certificate of recognition will be presented to each deacon body that participates.

Suggested Activities . . .

- Conduct a deacon's retreat or training event
- Enter the Deacon Family Ministry Plan
- Conduct Pastor/Staff Appreciation Day
- Sponsor a special ministry project
- Conduct prayer/planning retreat with church leaders
- Sponsor a mission trip or tour
- Enter Deacon/Pastor Covenant to work together as partners in ministry
- Plan and conduct worship service
- Conduct activities to strengthen church fellowship
- View and study video tapes
- Conduct efforts to reclaim inactive church members
- Plus many more . . .

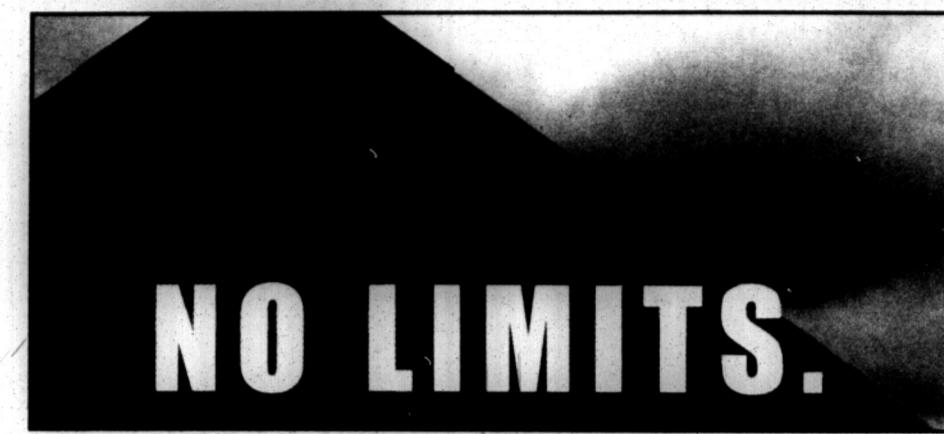
For other projects and information, contact:

Pastor/Leadership Development

Keith Gordon, consultant

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

601-968-3800, extension 307, or 1-800-748-1651



Set your family on the right course!

Are you interested in:
A Fulfilling Marriage?
True Success and Significance?
More Family Time?
Meaningful Communication?
Equipping Kids to Choose the Best?

MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

Feb. 17-18, 2006

Ridgecrest BC, Madison

Cost: \$25

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JERRY PIPES

Author of "Family to Family" and
"Building a Successful Family"

Break-out Sessions on the Four Seasons of Marriage
Led by Professional Family Counselors

Featuring



Ron Mumbower
Counseling/Congregational
Care Pastor
FBC, Jackson



Dwight Faulkenberry
Director
Pathway Ministries
Tupelo



Key Faulkenberry
Pathway Ministries
Tupelo



Tate Cockrell
Associate Pastor
Family Ministry
Broadmoor BC, Madison



Perry Sanderford
Director, Crossroads Christian
Marriage/Family Counseling Pearl

Contact Glenn at gshows@mbcb.org or 1-800-748-1651

2006 State Evangelism Conference

January 23-24, 2006

Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus

"Pray Over Columbus" (for everyone)
9 a.m. • January 23

The MBCB Women's Visionary Team, and the wMu directors and women's ministry leaders of Area 2 and Area 4 invite everyone to participate in this special prayer effort before the State Evangelism Conference begins.

Ministers' Spouses Lunch (just for the ladies)
"No One Can Fill Your Shoes ... Walking Worthy of HIS Calling"
Ephesians 4:1-3
11:30 a.m. • January 23

Ladies, be sure to bring your pastor's wife to this lunch planned especially for them. Special guests will be Page Hughes, keynote speaker, and Janet Rayford, music.

Page Hughes
Anchor Ministries



Janet Rayford
Crestwood New Life BC, Jackson

More information to come in November and December.

THE SUIT PROJECT

Merry Christmas

to pastors in the
Northwest Baptist Convention
(Oregon and Washington)



What is the Suit Project?

For over 41 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

What can I do?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$130. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, or WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, the Suit Project is the perfect choice.

Where do I send my donation?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate your check to The Suit Project. Mail to:
Men's Ministry Department
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530



If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate to the pastor's wife!

So often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2006

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
Thursday, January 26, 2006 – 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Harrisburg BC	4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd., Tupelo, 38801 (All Categories)	Diane Smith	C-662-842-6917
Fairview BC	127 Airline Rd., Columbus, 39702 (All Categories)	Slater Murphy	C-662-328-2924
FBC, Clinton	100 East College St., Clinton, 39056 (Categories I, IA ONLY)	Beverly Coleman Bill Bacon	C-601-924-6716
Fifteenth Avenue BC	1318 15th Ave., Meridian, 39301 (All Categories)	Ken Patterson	C-601-485-4113
FBC, McComb	1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648 (All Categories)	Greg Stone	C-601-684-2971
FBC, Laurel	605 W. Fifth St., Laurel, 39442 (All Categories)	Joy Hughelett Jimmy Little	C-601-649-5710
Friday, January 27, 2006 – 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Hernando BC	11 E. Center St., Hernando, 38632 (All Categories)	Barry Tweedy	C-662-421-6361
Crossgates BC	8 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon, 39042 (Categories II, IIA, III, IV ONLY)	Tommy Creel	C-601-825-2562
William Carey College	498 Tuscan Ave., Hattiesburg, 39401 (All Categories)	Kathy Vail	C-601-544-0100
FBC, Pascagoula	902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39567 (All Categories)	Michaele Harrison	C-228-762-2343
Saturday, January 28, 2006 – 9:30 a.m. - noon			
FBC, Grenada	741 S. Line St., Grenada, 38901 (All Categories)	Andy Cummings	C-662-226-3661
North Greenwood BC	615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38935 (All Categories)	Patricia Ethridge Tommy Smith	C-662-453-2801
Alta Woods BC	168 Colonial Dr., Jackson, 39204 (Categories II, IIA, III, IV Only)	Wyndy South	O-601-292-3272

C-Church, O-Office



2006 Area Keyboard Festival Locations



Start planning now to have the children and youth from your church and studio participate in the 2006 Area Keyboard Festivals.

For more information, please contact Wyndy South at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272.

Pray this day for...

October 28-November 17, 2005

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." I Peter 5:6-7

For: (1) Mission Service Corp Annual Meeting, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 30th-31st (MM); (2) The Uruguay Deaf Team reports that deaf churches are going through a time of testing and some of the leaders are faltering. Pray for strong, faithful Christ-like leaders.

For: (1) RA Emphasis Week 6th-13th (MM Emphasis); (2) Ted Wilson is an Air Force chaplain stationed at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nev. Pray for the members of the 99th Ground Combat Training Squadron and the 3000+ students per year that come through their course.

In Rwanda, 16 percent of an 8 million population are considered to be Muslim. Today, Christians in Rwanda are beginning to reach out to Muslims. Over the last two years an estimated 750 Muslims have accepted Christ. Pray that thousands more will believe in Christ.

For: (1) Lay Missions Conference/Banquet, FBC, Jackson; 3-7 p.m. (MM/WMU); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (3) Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson, 1-4:45 p.m. (P/LD).

For: (1) Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (WMU Emphasis); (2) Youth Minister's Workshop, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, 7th-9th (Youth Team); (3) A translator is working on Sunday School materials for the Xhosa of South Africa. Pray for his work.

Richard Holloman, Nashville, is director of the Sight Ministry that reaches out to individuals struggling with same-sex attraction issues. Pray for people who are trapped in this lifestyle, for direction of current support groups, and for cities starting a ministry of this type.

For: (1) Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet, Baptist Building, Jackson, 4:45-6:30 p.m. (EVAN); (2) AMDs and Seminary Extension Director's Breakfast, Baptist Building, Jackson, 7-8 a.m. (P/LD); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson, 1st-2nd.

Missionaries Wayne and Kay Ellen Deckert relocated from Okinawa to Hiroshima, Japan, during the summer. Pray for Mrs. N, a Christian whom they met, to open her home for a group meeting that she would facilitate. Pray also for Mrs. H, who is not yet a Christian, but very close.

Pray as Brazilian Christians seek to share Christ with the people of their country regardless of their ethnic background, social status, or behavior patterns that might "turn off" the typical church member.

For: (1) Bivocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives Breakfast, Baptist Building, Jackson, 7-8 a.m. (P/LD); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting, Baptist Building Chapel, Jackson; (3) God to speak to the people in Alexandria, Egypt, who received Bibles recently.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 9th-11th; (2) Bob Loy is the executive director for the Jacksonville (Fla.) Port Ministries. Pray for port chaplains/missionaries as they witness to seafarers of North American ports. Seafarers are very lonely and have great spiritual needs.

Please remember the 50 Baptist churches in Croatia. Many of these churches are very insular and have little passion for the lost world around them. Ask the Lord to give these churches a vision and to empower believers to share their faith with family, friends and co-workers.

For: (1) Campers on Missions, Quitman, 5 p.m., 3rd-noon, 5th (MM); (2) Thank you for praying for the woman in Ghana with a tumor and for her husband. She underwent two surgeries. The good news is that her husband, who had left her, returned to care for her!

Born into a priestly caste in Bangladesh, H was expected to become a Hindu priest. But when H began searching for truth and peace it led him to Jesus. His father cut him off from the family inheritance. H did not waver. Ask God to bless his ministry among the tribal people.

Many children in China struggle to survive. In remote regions, the mortality rate of those under age 5 is two to four times as high as in the cities. There are 76,000 children under age 13 who have lost at least one parent to AIDS. Pray all children in China will hear about the love of Jesus.

Harold C. Booze, East Peoria, is a volunteer working with missions coordinators in the Illinois Baptist State Association. Please pray for the needed volunteers and that many people will respond to receive Christ as their personal Savior.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5 p.m., 4th-1 p.m., 6th (EVAN); (2) Pray for volunteers to serve in long-term North American missions, and for those who have answered the many opportunities to serve.

Guatemalan Baptists, working alongside a team of Southern Baptist missionaries, have formed AMIGUA, the Guatemala Missionary Association. Its purpose is to mobilize local Baptists to evangelize their own people and also unreached people outside of Guatemala. Pray for the ministry.

Pray for the continued efforts of Prague Mega-City Team members to share with students and school administrators through English language ministries. Pray for openness in the schools and for believers to demonstrate to the students and administrators the love of Jesus.

For: (1) GA Missions Madness, FBC, Brookhaven (WMU); (2) Please pray for President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed of Somalia (eastern Africa).

Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Meeting and Banquet

**November 1, 2005 • 4:45 p.m.
Baptist Building, Skyroom
515 Mississippi Street, Jackson**

All chaplains, volunteer and career, are invited to join us for a good Barbeque dinner and fellowship.

The speaker will be chaplain Gary Strehlow, director of Pastoral Care, Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield. Gary will speak on the role chaplains play in support of victims and first responders. He will share with us his experiences on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

The banquet is no cost to chaplains and spouses who have paid their dues to the Chaplains' Association for 2005/2006. For nonmembers of the association, the cost is \$8 each.

For more information, call Elaine Smith
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278.

HOUSE TOPS.

MISS KATIE R. GRAY – 12/4/86
Parents: Tony and Karen
Church Planting
Eastern South America

MISS MARISA M. WOMBLE – 12/6/88
Parents: Freddie and Karen
Church Planting
Eastern South America

MR. ALLEN D. LIGHTSEY – 12/14/85
Parents: Tim and Rebecca
Literature Distribution
Middle America

MISS KIMBERLY D. SHEARER – 12/20/85
Parents: Kevin and Pamela
Strategy
Western South America

MR. NICHOLAS G. PRICE – 12/21/98
Parents: Richard and Christi
Medicine
Central & Eastern Europe



**Encourage a
MK with a
birthday card!**

PLEASE NOTE
Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY,
cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

JUST FOR THE RECORD

11. **Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, is sponsoring a World Craft party Nov. 5 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
12. **Clear Branch Church, Wesson**, is hosting a World Craft party Nov. 5, 2-4 p.m.
13. **First Church, Magee's**, Vardaman's Boys' Sunday School class of the 1940's held their annual reunion Oct. 6 at the Magee Civic Center.
14. **Northcrest Church, Meridian**, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Nov. 6-8, 7 p.m.
15. **Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst**, will host The Revelations Oct. 30, 10:30 a.m.
16. **Immanuel Church, Cleveland**, will host a reception honoring their new pastor, Chris Twilley, and his family Oct. 30, from 2:30-4 p.m.



23. Youth Trip, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

17. **North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton**, will hold its annual Harvest Festival Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. For more information, call Jeff Myers at (662) 237-0047 or 897-9777.
18. **Eastside Church, Pearl**, will host Trunk or Treat Oct. 30, 5-7:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 939-2433.
19. **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, will host a gospel sing featuring the Crossway Quartet Oct. 30, 6 p.m.

20. **Fellowship Church, Starkville**, will sponsor a Fall Festival Oct. 29, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
21. **Providence Church, Carrollton**, will host Steve and Becky Carver of Mathiston Oct. 30, 5 p.m., with fellowship following.
22. **Calvary Church, Vicksburg**, is sponsoring the showing of Love's Enduring Promise, based on a book by Janette Oke, Oct. 18, 6 p.m. Ladies attending are asked to bring newborn clothing or diapers for the Center for Pregnancy Choices.
23. The youth of **Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, recently went to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., touring the Lost Sea in Sweetwater, Tenn. Gerald Malloy and Daniel Ward led worship.

Corrections

On page one of the October 20 issue, Betty Davis was identified as president of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. She is actually the immediate past president, and Donna Swarts is the current president. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

COLLEGE NEWS



6. Miss BMC Participants



10. MC Nurses Aid WCC

1. 1940'S Radio Hour is being presented by the **Mississippi College (MC) Music Department**, directed by Dana Rice, professor, and widely recognized as a gifted soloist and entertainer. The show will be presented November 11 at 7:30 p.m. and November 13, at 2:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall on the MC campus. For ticket information, please call the music office at (601) 925-3440.

2. One-Acts for Weekdays, the **Mississippi College Department of Communication's** one-act festival for Fall 2005, will feature two plays about beleaguered women. Performances are Nov. 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. in Aven Little Theater on the Mississippi College campus. Tickets are \$1.00 at the door. For more information, call (601) 925-3453.

3. Louis Lau, a 1965 graduate of **MC** and Chairman Emeritus of AsiaInfo Holdings,

Inc., public-listed NASDAQ company, was given a gold Mississippi College class ring in a special presentation at the International Program reception held on October 13.

4. **Blue Mountain College** will hold its annual Founder's Day celebration Nov. 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Modena Lowery Berry Auditorium. Guest speaker will be Creely Myatt Wilson of Brentwood, Tennessee. For more information, contact the Office of Alumnae/Alumni Affairs at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 119).

5. **Blue Mountain College's** Ministerial Alumni will hold their annual banquet during the Mississippi Baptist Convention Nov. 1 at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Galloway Methodist Church located at 305 North Congress. Guest speaker will be Kermit McGregor, Transition Pastor at First Church, Starkville. For more information, contact Bill Baker at (662)

837-5037 or Ronald Meeks at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 179).

6. **Blue Mountain College's** Miss BMC Court was recognized during recent campus activities. Members of the 2005 court include: (left to right) Jessica Corban, Leigh Ann Alexander, Brook Hale, Katie Stark, Maid of Honor Lydia Moore, Miss BMC Brooke McClain, Amber Hughes, Laurn McPhail, Lesley Smith, and Rachael Edwards.

7. Sounds, smells and sights of the fair midway come rushing through the memory via the exhibit CARNIVAL, featuring the photography of Hattiesburg native Stephen Komp. Opening Nov. 3, from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on **William Carey College's** Hattiesburg campus, the exhibit and reception is free and open to the public. This exhibit will hang through December 16,

and can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment, (601) 318-6192.

8. Broadway pianist Philip Fortenberry, a native of Columbia, will perform a benefit concert at **William Carey College** Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. Proceeds from the concert will be used to rebuild Carey's Gulf Coast library which was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Admission is \$10 and tickets may be purchased at the door. Fortenberry's CDs will be available in the lobby for \$15. For more information call the school of music at (601) 318-6175.

9. Annual Mississippi Alumni Luncheon, **New Orleans Seminary**, First Church, Jackson, Nov. 1, at noon: Surviving the Storms: A special report by Dr. Chuck Kelley, President of the seminary. Tickets for the soup and

salad luncheon (\$5.00 per person) can be purchased at the seminary booth. For further information contact Ben James at (866) 267-0719.

10. Faculty and students at **William Carey College's** Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing were surprised by the generosity of the **Mississippi College** School of Nursing recently when the private Baptist college in Clinton arrived in Hattiesburg with donations for displaced nursing students. Future plans include reopening Carey's school of nursing which is located on the **New Orleans Seminary** campus at an undetermined date. Preliminary visits to that building show little initial damage. The Gulfport campus was completely destroyed. Larry Kennedy, president of WCC, will announce plans for rebuilding on the coast in early 2006.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



22. Bay Recognized, Shady Grove Church, Batesville

22. **Shady Grove Church, Batesville**, recognized Clemmie Bay for 40 years of service as church treasurer. Shown are pastor Gary Roberson with Bay.

23. The GAs of **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, held their annual recognition service. Shown are the participants.

24. **Terry's Creek, Magnolia**, held a baby dedication service Sept. 18. Shown are David Millican, Seth, Clark, and Denise Wilson, Blythe and Jennifer Anseman, and Chase, Christi, and Michael Coulter.

25. New Orleans Seminary will hold its annual Mississippi Alumni Luncheon in conjunction with the Mississippi Baptist Convention at **First Church, Jackson**, at noon on Nov. 1. Dr. Chuck Kelley, president, will give a powerpoint presentation entitled, Surviving the Storm. Tickets may be purchased at the seminary exhibit. For more information, contact Ben James toll-free at (866) 267-0719.



23. GAs, Fredonia Church, New Albany



24. Baby Dedication, Terry's Creek, Magnolia

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EVENT STATUS UPDATES

The following list contains updated information on events. More events will be added to this list as soon as the information becomes available.

- **Flake's Formula for the Future – Biloxi**
Sunday School, First Baptist Church, Biloxi Oct. 21–22, **Cancelled**
- **Women's Retreat: "Following Christ"**
Woman's Missionary Union, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Oct. 28–29, **Postponed**

- **Lay Missions Conference/Banquet Men's Ministry/Woman's Missionary Union**, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Oct. 31, **Postponed**
- **Missions Mobilization Celebration Banquet**
Missions Mobilization, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Nov. 11, **Cancelled**
- **Missions Mobilization Conferences**
Missions Mobilization, Baptist Building Skyroom, Jackson, Nov. 12, **Cancelled**

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: Revival, Oct. 30–Nov. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Larry Lott, music.

First Church, Carthage: 125th anniversary, Oct. 30; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch; Jim Futral, speaker; Eddie Hamilton, interim pastor.

First Church, Coldwater: Revival, Nov. 6–9; Sun., 10:45 and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, speaker; Len Killough and Neil Creecy, music; Brian Tillman, pastor.

First Church, Nettleton: Homecoming, Nov. 6; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Jim Herrington, Amory, speaker.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Georgetown Church, Georgetown: Homecoming, Oct. 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joel Haire, speaker; Trent Nethery, pastor.

Ludlow Church, Scott Association: Homecoming, Oct. 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch; Mike Everett, speaker; M. L. Wallace, pastor; Dwight Cooper, music director; Sylvia Graves, pianist.

Lula Church, Jackson: Homecoming, Nov. 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch.

Moak's Creek, Lincoln Association: Homecoming, Oct. 30; morning worship followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Mike Alexander, speaker.

Plainway Church, Laurel: Revival, Nov. 6–8; Sun. worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal, and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Tue., 7 p.m.; Keith Thompson, speaker; Anthony Shows, music; J. Nonnie Jefcoat, pastor.

Siloam Church, Meadville: Homecoming, Nov. 6; morning service followed by lunch and afternoon singing with New Grace and the McMinnns; David Millican, speaker.

Adopt an Annuitant program helping Miss. retiree

DALLAS (BP) — As people begin to rebuild their lives in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, two dozen retired ministers and widows have qualified for emergency grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 from GuideStone Financial Resources' Adopt An Annuitant program.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, GuideStone staff began contacting Adopt An Annuitant recipients to check on their situation and offer help.

"We've provided extra assistance to about 25 people," said John Ambra, GuideStone's director of development. "That support has helped them in meeting insurance deductibles, replacing lost food, cleanup assistance and replacing shingles on the

roof. In fact, we paid for metal sheeting that ripped off one of our participant's roofs."

"The best news is none of the annuitants we currently help have lost their lives," Ambra said.

One of the annuitants assisted by GuideStone's emergency financial aid was Mary Hodges of McComb. During Katrina's landfall and deluge on her home in southwest Mississippi, Hodges said she went from room to room in her house praying God would protect her property and her church.

"The Lord was with me and I did not get afraid," she said, "and not a limb fell on the house. It was miraculous."

Hodges' home received some roof damage from the

winds — not to the point of leaking, she noted — but food in her refrigerator and freezer spoiled during the power outage in the days following Katrina.

"The check makes the difference in what I am able to eat, compared to what I could have without it," she said, adding that the difference in the supplemental income she receives through the Adopt An Annuitant program means the difference between eating beans or eating meat.

Hodges said that her neighborhood and city are beginning to rebound. A group from Missouri came down and cut up fallen tree limbs and trucks carted off the debris.

"We're getting in good shape," Hodges said. "It's starting to look like people live here instead of a war zone."

Ambra said the Adopt An Annuitant program has been able to provide emergency grants to recipients like Hodges because of the generosity of Southern Baptists who give to the Adopt An Annuitant program.

The program provides financial support for nearly 2,500 retired Southern Baptist ministers or their widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Qualifying individuals receive \$200 a month and qualifying couples receive \$265 a month. The Adopt An Annuitant program can accept a gift of any amount, and nothing is taken out for administrative costs. One hundred percent is used to help someone in need.

"The faithfulness of our donors is the reason we are prepared to respond in emergency situations," Ambra said. "Because of that support, we've been able to provide additional funds to help with the unexpected needs our recipients have faced, and we've had the privilege of being able to give some comfort to folks who were dealing with tough circumstances."

Additional information on the Adopt An Annuitant program is available at www.GuideStone.org or by calling toll-free (800) 262-0511.

Terry to retire from SWBTS after 37 years

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Jack Terry Jr., vice president of institutional advancement at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth, announced during the fall meeting of seminary's trustees on Oct. 18 that he will step down from his position at the end of the year.

Terry, whose service to the seminary has spanned over 37 years, said he would assume a "semi-retired" status Dec. 31 and will continue to work for the seminary part-time. He will remain chairman of the seminary's centennial celebration committee, which is preparing events for Southwestern's anniversary in 2008.

Once the dean of the religious education school at Southwestern, Terry moved into the role of vice president and began fundraising for several building projects, including the construction of the Ray I. Riley Alumni Center and the Jack W. MacGorman Conference Center, home of Southwestern's Center for Leadership Development.

This summer, Fort Worth Business Press recognized Terry as one of Fort Worth's outstanding mentors.

Terry will continue to raise funds for the seminary, including plans for a 3,500-seat chapel. Trustees were shown a digital "fly-over" of the new building, which will serve as the center of campus life, with SWBTS President Paige Patterson noting that the new chapel is "essential to our future growth."

Southwestern is one of the few theological schools in the country, Patterson said, that still has no freestanding chapel. Trustees approved the process that will allow the seminary administration to pursue the full architectural design and funding for the new chapel.

Vice President of Business Administration Greg Kingry said there is a "sense of urgency" to get the new chapel well underway by the seminary's centennial celebration in 2008.

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COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLLERVILLE, TENN., is now accepting resumes for a full-time senior pastor. For further information, see www.covenantontheweb.org. Email resume to general@covenantontheweb.org or mail to pastor search committee, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collerville, TN 38027 by December 15, 2005.

GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN PRAIRIEVILLE, LA., seeks dynamic music minister. Duties to include leadership of all music worship services, along with adult and children's choirs. Church located right off I-10 south of Baton Rouge. Fax resumes to (225) 673-6624, or email to dutchbc@eatel.net.

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WORLDCRAFTS PARTY: Slayden Baptist Church, Marshall Association, November 5, 2005, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Your purchase of handmade WorldCrafts gives artisans around the globe exposure to the gospel and the chance for a better life.

BRIARWOOD DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 245 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, MS has three octaves of Schulmersch hand bells with cases and three tables with no pads for sale. The price is negotiable beginning at \$3,200.00. Contact the church office at (601) 956-4561 for an appointment to preview the bells.

MS POSITIONS

WANTED: PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Plantersville, MS 38862.

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISS., is seeking a bi-vocational part-time music director. Please send resumes to Enon Baptist Church, 2604 Carrollton Road, Grenada, MS 38901. Or contact church office at (662) 226-0778, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Other times, call Fletcher Moorman at (662) 417-8253.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, MISS., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION AVAILABLE. Part-time youth minister needed Sunday services, Wednesday night and general youth activities. Grandview Baptist Church, 900 S. Pearson Road, Pearl, MS 39208. Call or fax resume to church office at (601) 939-4215.

MINISTER OF YOUTH: GOSS BAPTIST CHURCH, near Columbia, Miss., is seeking part-time/bi-vocational minister of youth. Please send resumes to Goss Baptist Church, attn: Donovan McComb at 718 Broad Street, Columbia, MS 39429 or contact him at (601) 444-0000.

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for an associate pastor in music. Please send resume to the following address: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, associate pastor search committee, 1383 Pleasant Hill Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MADISON, MISS., is seeking a dynamic, Christian leader of young people to immediately fill the full-time position of minister of youth. Please mail letters of interest with credentials to FBC Madison, P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400, or email Shari Hurt, pastoral secretary at shurt@fbcmadison.org.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG (Oak Grove) is currently seeking a qualified individual for the position of minister of music. Resumes will be received until November 30. Please send all resumes to attention: music search committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

SPRINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for the position of part-time minister of music and youth. Please submit resume to: Personnel Committee, c/o Springdale Baptist Church, 28314 Attala Hwy. 19, West, MS 39192.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, Mississippi is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Send resumes to Gus Shelby, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 2162 Old Hwy 84 W, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, WAYNESBORO, Miss., is now accepting resumes for a full-time youth minister. Please submit resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: youth position, 615 South Street, Waynesboro, MS 39367 or email to plsmith601@bellsouth.net or call (601) 735-2333.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Oct. 10-23

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Mrs. Mary Y. Womack
Tom Shirley
Mrs. E. B. Hearn
Bobby Simmons
Mr. Jamie A. Cuning III
Ms. Ruth V. Whitt
Mr. Melborn Simmons
Mrs. Frances A. Hart
Myra Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. Skeet Sanders
Elfriede Smith
Lester & Brenda Robertson
Clara Roberts
Thelma Jones
Joey Smith
Faithful Workers SSC,
New Prospect
Merkel Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Skeet Sanders
Junior Speights
Lester & Brenda Robertson
Mr. Hugh Spitchley
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Wilton Spitchley
Dr. & Mrs. Carl S. Bozeman
Lester & Brenda Robertson
Mrs. Idella Steele
Martha & Tom Gerald
The A. M. Hollingsworths
Opal & Robert Johnston
Carolyn & Gordan Netterville
Mr. Robert R. Waymire
Mrs. Dorothy Dell Stewart
Eileen Baker
Lorraine Seal

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project


The Baptist Children's Village for the 3rd year will be partnering with Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization headed by Rev. Franklin Graham. This project provides shoeboxes filled with gifts and candy for children in need around the world. These gifts are given and the gospel is shared with children who have never received a Christmas gift or heard the truth about Jesus Christ. This project is also a mission project for The Baptist Children's Village residents. Many the residents volunteer in the relay center and are learning how important it is to serve others. The collection dates are November 14-21. For more information contact Chrystelle Thames at The Baptist Children's Village at 601.922.2242 or cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

The Baptist Children's Village Sincerely Appreciates Our Mississippi Baptist Ministers

Thank you for your prayers, your leadership, your encouragement and your support.

In honor of Minister Appreciation Month, we will have coffee and pastries on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, at our Mississippi Baptist Convention booth.

We would love the opportunity to thank you, in person, for your support. Your partnership in this ministry to children is so very important to us.

"I thank my God every time I remember you."
Philippians 1:3

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Follow God's Example

Ephesians 4:22–5:2, 8–10

A father sat down with his young son in order to tell him what it meant to be a Christian. The father discussed the process of becoming a Christian, the character and lifestyle of Christians, and the purpose and priority of Christians everywhere. When the father completed the discourse his young son, with deep concern, inquired of his father, "Dad, have I ever met one of these Christians?" Most professing Christians today are not the example that they should be. It is possible that we are not setting a good example, because we are not following the right example. Many Christians follow the example of the preacher, the deacon, or the Sunday school teacher when the example that we should be following is the example of the

Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, in Ephesians 4 and 5 gives us insight on being a good example by following God's example.

I. Confession (Eph. 4:22–24)

Being a good example begins with a confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. Confessing Christ begins with Repentance (v. 22). Paul instructs us to put off the old man like we would strip off filthy clothes. Every habit, thought, word and deed that is the result of the old sinful nature is to be stripped off and put away. Our old man must be crucified with Christ, that the old man might be done away with (Rom. 6:6). Next, there must be Renewal (v. 23). The mind is the center of thought, belief, motive and action. Our



Ivy

minds must be renewed because the natural man cannot receive the things of God, nor know them (1 Cor. 2:14). When we confess Christ we receive the mind of Christ. Confessing Christ not only includes repentance and renewal, but also Regeneration (v. 24). Paul instructs us to

put on the new man. The old man has been crucified and buried and the new man has been put on. In Christ we are new creations. The old man passes away and all things become new (2 Cor. 5:17).

II. Continuation (4:25–30)

Being a good example demands continual growth in our Christian walk. We must continue to grow on a daily basis. There are two ways we can guarantee unbroken continuation in our relationship with Christ. First, do not give place to Satan. We should be careful to maintain truthfulness, meekness, integrity, and purity of speech in

all that we do. We must not give Satan any foothold in our heart, soul, mind or body if we intend to walk consistently with Christ. Not only does Paul warn us not to give place to Satan, but he goes on to say, do not grieve the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person who can be grieved and offended by our attitude, activity, and inactivity. There is no hope for a growing relationship with Christ if the Holy Spirit has been grieved in our life. As believers, we must evaluate our lifestyles and continually take definite steps to put away wickedness and put on righteousness in order to gratify rather than grieve the Spirit of God.

III. Culmination (5:1–2; 8–10)

Being a good example begins with confession, grows in continuation, and ends with a culmination of believers imitating their Heavenly Father. There is no greater calling or purpose than that of imitating God Almighty. We imitate Him in Love (v. 1–2). God is love and we are known as disciples by our love. We also

imitate Him in Light (v. 8–9). Believers walk in the light as He is in the light. As we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all of our sin (1 John 1:7). Not only do we imitate Him in love and in light, but also in Learning (v. 10). We strive to learn, or find out what is acceptable and honoring to Him. As believers we must evaluate how closely we are imitating the Father and decide practical ways that we will seek to be like Him. We are the best example and following the best example when we are imitating Him in all that we do and say.

As believers we must seek to be a good example by following His example. Jesus said it best in Matthew 10:25; "It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master." Strive to follow the example God has set before you in His Son and you will be the example He has called you to be.

Ivy is pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Given Eternal Life"

Romans 6:15–23

When I was a child, and school was out in June, my family often went to visit my two grandmothers who lived four hours away. My parents went to see friends they knew and took my brother, who was seven years younger, with them. I was free to spend hours entertaining myself by writing poems and notes, counting the birds in the orange trees, and daydreaming as I lay in a wooden swing and smelled the fresh rain as it dripped off the front porch. Those days were fun, but s-o-o-o long. I thought they lasted "forever." But when I was eight years old, I trusted Jesus as my Savior. I learned then that I had been given eternal life and that meant I'd live "forever." What a wonderful promise!

1. Being Obedient (Romans 6:15–16)

Preschoolers and children have rules and guidelines. They hear them taught daily. When

they become adults, these rules are called laws. The Gentiles had grown up learning and being obedient to the Old Testament laws. When they became followers of Christ, it was hard to put aside traditional training and accept the free grace of Jesus Christ. Paul had to continually guide, teach, explain, and repeat his message to them. In verse fifteen they asked, "Shall we sin because we are not under the law?" Paul must again convince them that they are to turn their thoughts from Moses to Jesus Christ...from the law to grace (J. Stifler) A good thing for us to remember is that when we repent of our sins, it's Jesus, not the law, who forgives us. Paul also reminded them of the difference between their old life and their new life. Their life before Christ meant follow the law, break the law, and continue



Davis

the same life-style. "Sin beget sin." (Barclay) The new life meant yielding themselves as slaves to obey Christ. A slave is a person who is owned by another person. He is no longer free to do as he chooses, but must obey and faithfully serve the one who is in charge of his life. During the time

a slave is working, he must obey his master. When a slave has free time, he may make his own decisions. On special occasions, particularly when celebrating a national victory, or days of personal meaning (birthdays, anniversaries, or weddings), the master might distribute free gifts of money to his slave.

Some in the Roman church were living like slaves to sin, instead of enjoying forgiveness from sin through Christ. One theologian says, "The Christian who deliberately yields himself to sin is going to commit sin and reap sorrow." When Christians obey God and refuse to sin, they show He controls their lives and they are taking a step toward righteous living.

2. Living Righteously (Romans 6:17–19)

These lesson passages immediately follow Paul's instruction about the meaning of baptism. In the early church, adult baptism represented their confession of faith. As Christians, now they were free from sin to serve God through righteous living. They were alive with God, not encumbered with the constant obsession of sin. Paul encouraged them to choose good moral lifestyles. He acknowledged that they were human with physical desires, but now they could choose to direct their thoughts and not let sin control their fleshly wants. Christ had broken the hold of sin, but they must be willing to identify themselves as Christ followers and please Him. To live righteously, a Christian must realize it is possible not to continue living sinful lives. The more we live in righteous ways the easier it will be to grow spiritually toward our Savior.

3. Growing Spiritually (Romans 6:20–23)

Now that the Roman Christians belonged to Christ,

they had to present their bodies as slaves of righteousness. This would lead them to a pure life and separate them from the worldly lusts. In dying, Christ broke the hold of sin. Why does it take us so long to believe and accept that fact? We have only to remember Christ's death on the cross and know for sure that our sins are forgiven, and we have the gift of eternal life. Eternal life means you will live forever in heaven with God. The promise of eternal life is especially precious to those who have lost loved ones. The assurance that they will meet again, if both are Christians, is comforting during times of sorrow. Let's serve God righteously, not because we feel we should, but because we want to please Him. God wants us to live right because when we do, it will help us grow spiritually. Sanctification helps us focus on growing toward spiritual maturity. One day, as Christians, we'll meet in heaven and live eternally. I'll be looking for you!

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST RECORD

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Earthquake survivors look to So. Baptists

Bibliocipher

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ZTLOL LSENA OCNV AED,
EP E MEYY NASN AT
NSHHJ NEYY E XVDT,
MASN EL NASN NV
NATT? PVYYVM NAVO DT.
ZVAC NMTCNJ-VCT:
NMTCNJ-NMV

Clue: Z = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twenty-One: Twenty-Two.

WINTER WARNING — Pakistani children, who survived the Oct. 8 earthquake in the mountains, are especially susceptible to illnesses such as pneumonia as they prepare to spend harsh winter months in tents — or even out in the cold. Snow already covers the mountain tops and could reach these children's village in a matter of weeks. (BP photo)



Everything lost

"This one guy lost his wife and three daughters," said Southern Baptist worker Otto

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP) — As an earthquake brutally shook under his feet, Awal Khan left his goats in the mountains and rushed home, only to find his house a mass of rubble. His wife and 12-year-old daughter had been inside.

"The walls and roof of the house caved in on them," Khan said. "I took them and buried them. I dragged them out, and now they are in the cemetery."

A Southern Baptist disaster relief assessment team found Khan standing on the edge of a road situated high above the town where his home once was. Reaching the town was not easy. Living in it right now is even harder. Shelter, food, and medical care are scarce in this town, which prior to the earthquake had served as a supply hub for surrounding villages.

"Southern Baptist workers have assessed many of the affected areas and are responding," said Philip Monroe (not his real name), a Southern Baptist disaster relief specialist serving in Asia. "The vast majority of the seriously affected areas are accessible only by helicopter, long walks on foot or long, dangerous drives in vehicles."

Khan's town is one of several hard-to-reach places where Southern Baptist aid workers will focus their relief efforts.

"If you don't have anything to meet your physical needs, you can't hear anything that meets your spiritual needs," Southern Baptist worker Josie Gabdon* said. "By meeting their physical needs, we really open up an avenue to meet their spiritual needs."

Southern Baptist workers began distributing more than 13 tons of food staples to the town's survivors on Oct. 18. About 30,000 people live in the area. About 600 died there.

Ackerman (not his real name). "He has only his clothes. He doesn't have anything else. He couldn't salvage anything out of his house.

"The people down the way are the worst affected. Eight kilometers down, the road is closed. Their biggest concern is that the relief won't get to them, that it will only get to where the road stops."

A 7.6-magnitude earthquake shook buildings from central Afghanistan to western Bangladesh the morning of Oct. 8. Pakistan's northwest frontier and the region of Kashmir were hardest-hit. On the Indian side of Kashmir, about 1,350 people died. In Pakistan, more than 39,400 have been confirmed dead with estimates reaching as high as 54,000 casualties. Thousands more have been injured, and the United Nations estimates that two million are homeless.

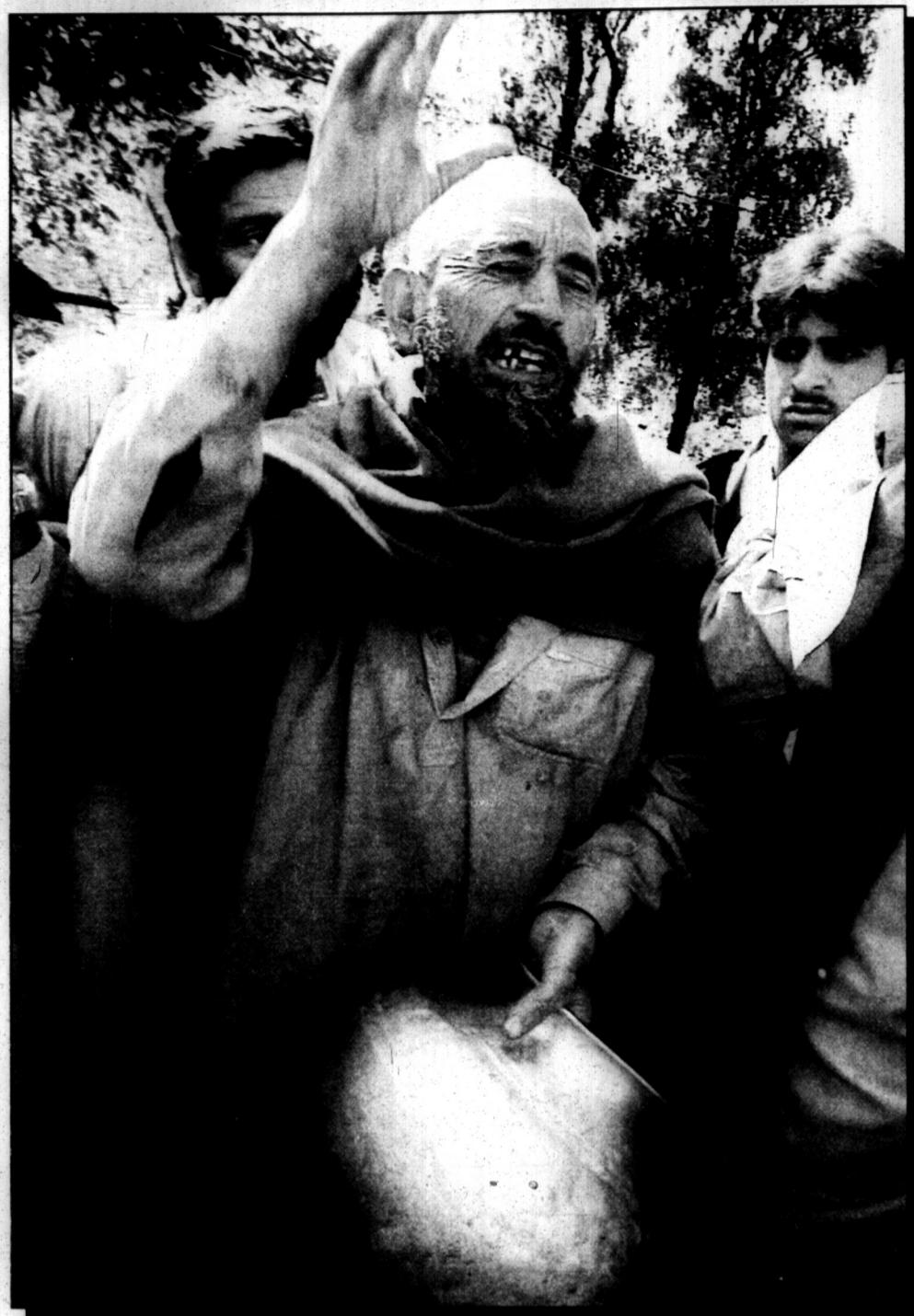
"As with the tsunami disaster, the response will be both difficult and extend over a period of time," Monroe said. "At this point, the greatest need for the victims of the earthquake is for temporary shelter that will carry them through the cold, bitter months ahead."

"Already, we have daily rains, and snowfalls are beginning to blanket some of the affected areas. The second greatest need will be for food and medical assistance that will also sustain them through these difficult months."

Southern Baptist workers based in South Asia began helping earthquake victims the day after the quake.

"Some of our folks have flown into affected areas and have trekked to some of the wounded," Monroe said. "They have assisted both governmental and non-governmental agencies in assessing the conditions of some of the sites that have been affected.

"We're also assisting other Great Commission Christians in their mission to provide medical assistance. We have been supplying two hospitals with medical supplies."



ALL ALONE — In a region where Southern Baptist workers are seeking to meet the physical and spiritual needs of earthquake survivors, this Pakistani man seeking clean water has lost everything in the Oct. 8 earthquake, including his family and home. The only thing he has left is the shawl around his shoulders. (BP photo)

Bringing hope

Spending a cold night in 40-degree temperatures was worth the result: The team seemed to bring hope to the mountain village, Gabdon said.

"I think that our being able to get the patients down-country brought a renewed energy to the villagers, because the next day they were back working," she said. "They were taking the tin off of the school to use for their homes. The overall feeling for the villagers the next day was that there is still hope, because we had taken care of the real sick ones. Things looked a little bit lighter."

The first team of Southern Baptist volunteers arrived in Pakistan on Oct. 21.

"We are currently planning for the first 30 days to address medical needs because of the massiveness of the injuries that occurred," Monroe said. "With the search and rescue people leaving, 80%-90% of the medical aid is leaving. There is a big dearth of medical help."

The first three teams of volunteers will be made up of medical personnel only.

"The resources of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network were being used in tsunami response in Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka prior to the earthquake," Monroe said.

"Hurricanes Rita and Katrina have stretched the resources of the Southern Baptist Convention prior to the current earthquake in Pakistan, and now the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network are being asked to address significant disasters in multiple parts of the world."

"The limited capacity of airlift, coupled with about three million displaced persons, will present challenges to our field personnel on the ground and the stretched resources of the Pakistan government," Monroe said.

"Southern Baptists will be called upon to stretch even more by providing volunteers who can come and assist with the very, very difficult work."